



General Assembly

February Session, 2010

Raised Bill No. 175

LCO No. 980

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Referred to Committee on Commerce

Introduced by:
(CE)

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT COMPETITIVENESS COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2010*) (a) There shall be established
2 a Connecticut Competitiveness Council which shall be within the
3 Department of Economic and Community Development. The council
4 shall consist of eighteen members appointed as follows: (1) Nine, each
5 from different geographic areas of the state, shall be appointed by the
6 Governor; (2) two members representing environmental, housing, the
7 arts or any other aspect of quality of life, who shall be appointed by the
8 president pro tempore of the Senate; (3) two members representing
9 financial or venture capital, who shall be appointed by the majority
10 leader of the Senate; (4) one member representing regulatory, taxes or
11 other financial services, who shall be appointed by the minority leader
12 of the Senate; (5) two members representing workforce training, job
13 retention or human resources, who shall be appointed by the speaker
14 of the House of Representatives; (6) one member representing
15 telecommunications, energy, transportation or other physical
16 infrastructure, who shall be appointed by the majority leader of the

17 House of Representatives; and (7) one member representing
18 technology research, discovery or deployment, who shall be appointed
19 by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

20 (b) The Commissioners of Developmental Services, Transportation,
21 Higher Education, the Labor Commissioner and the director of the
22 Office of Workforce Competitiveness shall be ex-officio members of the
23 Connecticut Competitiveness Council without the right to vote and
24 shall attend its meetings.

25 (c) Appointed members of the council shall serve for four-year
26 terms which shall commence October 1, 2010, except that members
27 first appointed shall have the following terms: Five of the members
28 initially appointed by the Governor and the members appointed by the
29 majority leader of the House of Representatives, minority leader of the
30 House of Representatives and the speaker of the House of
31 Representatives shall serve a term of two years, and four of the
32 members appointed by the Governor and the president pro tempore of
33 the Senate, the majority leader of the Senate and the minority leader of
34 the Senate shall initially serve a term of four years. The appointing
35 authority shall fill any vacancy by appointment for the unexpired
36 portion of the term vacated. A majority of the council shall constitute a
37 quorum for the transaction of any business. The members of the
38 council shall serve without compensation, except for necessary
39 expenses incurred in performing their duties.

40 (d) The Governor shall schedule and convene the first meeting of
41 the board after the initial appointment of members under subsection
42 (a) of this section. Such meeting shall be held not later than November
43 1, 2010.

44 (e) The council shall appoint annually, from among its members, a
45 chairman, vice chairman and secretary. The council may make rules
46 for the conduct of its affairs. The council shall meet at least quarterly
47 and at other times upon the call of the chair or the written request of
48 any four members.

49 (f) The Department of Economic and Community Development
50 shall provide staff support and other resources to the council. Upon
51 request of the council, the Legislative Program Review and
52 Investigations Committee, Auditors of Public Accounts, legislative
53 Office of Fiscal Analysis and Office of Legislative Research shall
54 provide additional assistance.

55 (g) The council shall be responsible for the development of a
56 strategic plan to promote the competitiveness of the state's industry
57 and economy. Such strategic plan shall include, but not be limited to,
58 (1) development of public policy to promote competitiveness, (2)
59 review of the state investment strategy and the effect of such strategy
60 on competitiveness, (3) analysis of the economic industry cluster
61 initiative, (4) review of state agency and other public and private
62 agencies' implementation of recommendations made by the economic
63 clusters, and (5) making recommendations for legislative or
64 administrative action to promote the competitiveness of the state's
65 industry and economy.

66 (h) Not later than January 1, 2011, and annually thereafter, the
67 council shall submit a report, in accordance with the provisions of
68 section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the Governor, the
69 Commissioner of Economic and Community Development and the
70 General Assembly on the competitiveness of the state's industry and
71 economy. Such report shall include, but not be limited to, (1) a copy of
72 the strategic plan required pursuant to subsection (g), or an update on
73 the development of such plan, (2) the status of state agency and
74 partner agency implementation of the recommendations made by the
75 economic clusters, and (3) recommendations for administrative and
76 legislative action that would promote the state's competitiveness.

77 Sec. 2. Section 32-717 of the general statutes is repealed and the
78 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2010*):

79 (a) The Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
80 the chairperson of Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the

81 president of The University of Connecticut and the chairperson of the
82 Connecticut Development Authority, or their respective designees,
83 shall prepare, within available appropriations, and in consultation
84 with the [Governor's] Connecticut Competitiveness Council, the
85 Commissioner of Education, the Commissioner of Higher Education,
86 the chancellor of the community-technical college system, the director
87 of the Office of Workforce Competitiveness and any other agencies
88 and leading technology-focused organizations deemed appropriate by
89 the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development,
90 recommendations for an implementation plan and budget to establish
91 an Innovation Network that will include the following: (1) The creation
92 of endowed chairs and the hiring of leading academic professionals in
93 targeted fields based on core competencies to work at universities,
94 state colleges and community colleges, in collaboration with other
95 technology initiatives; (2) the focused and aggressive solicitation of
96 and leveraged partnership with federal research funds; (3) increased
97 corporate-sponsored research; (4) the establishment of at least one
98 innovation accelerator, linked to universities and involving
99 corporations and start-up enterprises focused on advanced technology
100 and leveraging the efforts underway by the Connecticut Center for
101 Advanced Technology in the Hartford area; (5) the strengthening of
102 technology transfer and entrepreneurship activities at universities in
103 the state; (6) incentives and financial support for collaborative research
104 between universities and industry or federally sponsored technology
105 centers; (7) the creation of linkages to angel networks; and (8) the
106 creation of linkages to incubators in Connecticut. Said plan shall also
107 include provisions for the utilization of existing resources, including,
108 but not limited to, Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the
109 Connecticut Development Authority, The University of Connecticut
110 and the Office of Workforce Competitiveness.

111 (b) Not later than January 1, 2006, the Commissioner of Economic
112 and Community Development, in consultation with the chairperson of
113 Connecticut Innovations, Incorporated, the president of The University
114 of Connecticut and the chairperson of the Connecticut Development

115 Authority, shall develop an implementation plan for the Innovation
116 Network, within available resources, and submit said plan and budget
117 to the Governor and the joint standing committees of the General
118 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to economic
119 development, education and labor, in accordance with the provisions
120 of section 11-4a.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	32-717

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2010</i>	32-717

Statement of Purpose:

To establish the Connecticut Competitiveness Council.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]